CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of computing a schedule of channels, comprising the steps of:

accepting a series of commands to tune a plurality of channels sequentially from an ordered schedule of channels;

determining a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned; and

prioritizing the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period during which each channel is tuned.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the step of determining a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned comprises the step of determining a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands; and

the step of prioritizing the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned comprises the step of prioritizing the channels according to a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of prioritizing the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned comprises the step of:

reordering the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the schedule of channels is reordered after each command of the series of commands.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the schedule of channels is reordered after all of the channels of the schedule of channels has been tuned.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the schedule of channels is further ordered according a time elapsed since the channel was last tuned.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of reordering the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands further comprises the steps of:

weighting at least a portion of the time periods according to a time difference between a current time and a time when each channel associated with each time period was last tuned.

8. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

reordering the schedule of channels in sequential order.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of reordering the schedule of channels in sequential order is performed in response to a user command.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein:

each of the channels in the schedule of channels is associated with a media program; and

the step of reordering the schedule of channels in sequential order is performed at a time associated with a change in a threshold number of the media programs associated with at the channels in the schedule of channels.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

determining which of the time periods exceeds a threshold time period; and

segmenting the channels into a first segment having channels associated with a time period exceeding the threshold time period and a second segment having channels associated with a time period not exceeding the threshold time period.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

ordering the channels in the first segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel; and

ordering the channels in the second segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

presenting media programs associated with the channels in the first segment in order in response to a first command; and

presenting the media programs associated with the channels in the second segment in order in response to a second command.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

de-prioritizing a selected channel in the schedule of channels in response to a user input.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is a subset of all available channels.

16. A method of computing a schedule of channels, comprising the steps of:

accepting data indicative of user interest in media programs transmitted on a plurality of channels; and

prioritizing a schedule of channels having at least a subset of the plurality of channels according to the user interest in the media programs.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the data indicative of the user interest in the media programs is selected from a group comprising:

a click-stream;

a list having at least one uniform resource locator.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

accepting a series of commands to tune a plurality of channels sequentially from schedule of channels;

determining a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned; and

wherein the schedule of channels is prioritzed according to the user interest in the media program and to the duration of the time period during which each channel is tuned.

19. An apparatus for computing a schedule of channels, comprising:

means for accepting a series of commands to tune a plurality of channels sequentially from an ordered schedule of channels;

means for determining a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned; and

means for prioritizing the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period during which each channel is tuned.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein:

the means for determining a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned comprises means for determining a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands; and

the means for prioritizing the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned comprises means for prioritizing the channels according to a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for prioritizing the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned comprises:

means for reordering the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the schedule of channels is reordered after each command of the series of commands.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the schedule of channels is reordered after all of the channels of the schedule of channels has been tuned.

24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the schedule of channels is further ordered according a time elapsed since the channel was last tuned.

25. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for reordering the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands further comprises:

means for weighting at least a portion of the time periods according to a time difference between a current time and a time when each channel associated with each time period was last tuned.

26. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:

means for reordering the schedule of channels in sequential order.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the means for reordering the schedule of channels in sequential order is performed in response to a user command.

28. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein:

each of the channels in the schedule of channels is associated with a media program; and

the means for reordering the schedule of channels in sequential order is performed at a time associated with a change in a threshold number of the media programs associated with at the channels in the schedule of channels.

29. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

means for determining which of the time periods exceeds a threshold time period; and

means for segmenting the channels into a first segment having channels associated with a time period exceeding the threshold time period and a second segment having channels associated with a time period not exceeding the threshold time period.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

means for ordering the channels in the first segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel; and

means for ordering the channels in the second segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

means for presenting media programs associated with the channels in the first segment in order in response to a first command; and

means for presenting the media programs associated with the channels in the second segment in order in response to a second command.

32. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

means for de-prioritizing a selected channel in the schedule of channels in response to a user input.

33. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is a subset of all available channels.

34. An apparatus of computing a schedule of channels, comprising:

means for accepting data indicative of user interest in media programs transmitted on a plurality of channels; and

means for prioritizing a schedule of channels having at least a subset of the plurality of channels according to the user interest in the media programs.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the data indicative of the user interest in the media programs is selected from a group comprising:

a click-stream;

a list having at least one uniform resource locator.

36. The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising:

means for accepting a series of commands to tune a plurality of channels sequentially from schedule of channels;

means for determining a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned; and

wherein the schedule of channels is prioritzed according to the user interest in the media program and to the duration of the time period during which each channel is tuned.

37. An apparatus for computing a schedule of channels, comprising:

a user interface for accepting a series of commands to tune a plurality of channels sequentially from an ordered schedule of channels;

a processor, communicatively coupled to a memory, the processor implementing a timer for determining a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned and prioritizing the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period during which each channel is tuned.

38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein:

the processor determines a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned by determining a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands; and

the processor prioritizes the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned by prioritizing the channels according to a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands.

39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the processor prioritizes the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned by reordering the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the schedule of channels is reordered after each command of the series of commands.

41. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the schedule of channels is reordered after all of the channels of the schedule of channels has been tuned.

42. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the schedule of channels is further ordered according a time elapsed since the channel was last tuned.

43. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the processor reorders the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands by weighting at least a portion of the time periods according to a time difference between a current time and a time when each channel associated with each time period was last tuned.

44. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the processor further reorders the schedule of channels in sequential order.

45. The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the processor reorders the schedule of channels in sequential order in response to a user command.

46. The apparatus of claim 44, wherein:

each of the channels in the schedule of channels is associated with a media program; and

the processor reorders the schedule of channels in sequential order at a time associated with a change in a threshold number of the media programs associated with at the channels in the schedule of channels.

47. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the processor further determines which of the time periods exceeds a threshold time period, and segments the channels into a first segment having channels associated with a time period exceeding the threshold time period and a second segment having channels associated with a time period not exceeding the threshold time period.

48. The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the processor further orders the channels in the first segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel, and orders the channels in the second segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel.

49. The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the processor further presents media programs associated with the channels in the first segment in order in response to a first command, and presents the media programs associated with the channels in the second segment in order in response to a second command.